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VERTICAL
FILE



INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1988

PHONE INQUIRIES

- *about these statistics and the availability of related unpublished statistics*—contact Janet Gunn on Canberra (062) 52 6174 or any ABS State office.
- *about other statistics and ABS services*—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6007, 52 6627, 52 5402 or any ABS State office.

MAIL INQUIRIES

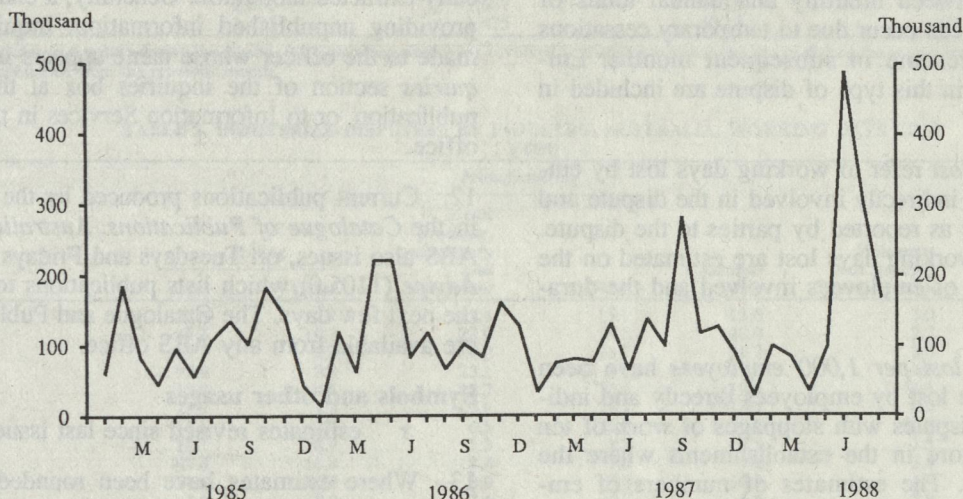
- *write to Information Services, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any ABS State office.*

ELECTRONIC SERVICES

- on VIATEL — key *656#.
- on AUSSTATS — phone (062) 52 6017.
- on TELESTATS — phone (062) 52 5404.

MAIN FEATURES

WORKING DAYS LOST, AUSTRALIA



In August 1988, 166,900 working days were lost by 115,000 employees involved in 150 disputes, compared with 304,200 working days lost by 192,000 employees in 105 disputes in July 1988.

Of the 150 disputes in August 1988, 20 involved the loss of more than 1,000 working days.

In the 12 months ended August 1988, 1,923,800 working days were lost, compared with 1,180,900 and 1,387,800 working days lost in the 12 month periods ending August 1987 and August 1986 respectively.

In the 12 months to August 1988, the Coal mining industry recorded the highest level of working days lost per thousand employees in a 12 month period (15,781) for any industry since the 12 months to March 1982, when the Coal mining industry recorded 15,950 working days lost per thousand employees.

For the 12 months ended August 1988, the number of working days lost per thousand employees was highest in New South Wales (431) and lowest in South Australia (113). The New South Wales estimate is the highest for any State or Territory since January 1984, when the measurement of working days lost per thousand employees was first calculated on the new basis (see paragraph 9 of the explanatory notes).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

1. The statistics relate to all disputes which involved stoppages of work of ten working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Ten working days is equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day.

2. The figures of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes (as defined in paragraph 4) and not to aggregate losses for the economy as a whole. De-

tails shown in this publication refer to all disputes *in progress* during the reference period indicated.

3. The statistics of industrial disputes are compiled mainly from data obtained from employers (both private and government) and trade unions concerning individual disputes, and from reports of government authorities. Particulars of some stoppages (for example, those involving a large number of establishments) may have been estimated and the statistics therefore should be regarded as giving only a broad measure of the extent of industrial disputes (as defined).

Definitions

4. For these statistics an *industrial dispute* is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance. A dispute affecting several establishments is considered to be a single dispute if it is organised or directed by one person or organisation, otherwise it is counted as a separate dispute at each establishment.

5. *Employees involved* include employees directly and indirectly involved in disputes. Employees indirectly involved are those who ceased work at the establishments where the stoppages occurred, but who are not themselves parties to the dispute.

6. Differences between monthly and annual totals of employees involved can occur due to temporary cessations of stoppages that resume in subsequent months. Employees re-involved in this type of dispute are included in the monthly totals.

7. *Working days lost* refer to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of employees involved and the duration of the dispute.

8. *Working days lost per 1,000 employees* have been compiled from those lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in disputes with stoppages of work of ten working days or more in the establishments where the stoppages occurred. The estimates of numbers of employees are obtained from the ABS Survey of Employment and Earnings and the ABS Labour Force Survey.

Change in methodology

9. The basis for the calculation of working days lost per thousand employees was changed in January 1987 to include estimates of employees from the Survey of Employment and Earnings. They are combined with estimates of the number of employees in Agriculture and in Private households, obtained from the Labour Force Survey, to derive the denominator. The estimates on this basis included in Tables 4 and 5 have been recalculated for each month back to January 1984 and are available on request. In issues of this publication prior to January 1987, the estimates of numbers of employees were based entirely on Labour Force Survey data. The effect of the change is minimal at the 'all industries' level but is quite significant, in some cases, for individual industry groups.

Other ABS publications

10. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

Industrial Disputes, Australia (6322.0)—issued annually, contains more detailed information, including statistics on

the cause, method of settlement and duration of industrial disputes.

Labour Statistics, Australia, 1986 (6101.0)

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly

Trade Union Statistics, Australia, (6323.0)—issued annually

Trade Union Members, Australia, August 1986 (6325.0)

Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia (6248.0)—issued quarterly

Unpublished statistics

11. In some cases, the ABS can also make available information which is not published. This information may be made available in one or more of the following forms: microfiche, photocopy, data tape, computer printout, clerically-extracted tabulation. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished information. Inquiries should be made to the officer whose name appears in the *Phone Inquiries* section of the inquiries box at the front of this publication, or to Information Services in the nearest ABS office.

12. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

r estimates revised since last issue

13. Where estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

Electronic services

VIATEL. Key *656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.

Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

Floppy disk service

Selected ABS statistics are available on floppy disk. Further information is available on (062) 52 6684.

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : AUSTRALIA

Period	Number of disputes		Employees involved ('000)		Working days lost ('000)
	Commenced in period	Total(a)	Newly involved(b)	Total(a)	
1987 June	126	145	35.8	41.4	65.2
July	117	135	49.7	51.5	137.8
August	109	122	39.5	52.1	98.8
September	114	127	60.3	84.9	282.6
October	138	151	60.6	64.5	117.6
November	164	178	86.0	97.8	126.7
December	97	115	34.8	49.7	86.5
1988 January	81	86	12.2	12.6	29.2
February	138	148	44.0	58.1	100.5
March	168	187	34.7	41.9	84.8
April	100	107	19.8	20.8	35.4
May	147	159	57.4	68.5	101.0
June	165	186	364.0	374.5	488.3
July	89	105	117.4	192.0	304.2
August	142	150	107.0	115.0	166.9
Twelve months ended—					
August 1986	1,746	1,768	662.5	690.4	1,387.8
1987	1,547	1,567	566.4	577.4	1,180.9
1988	1,543	1,556	998.1	1,022.7	1,923.8
December 1985	1,830	1,845	552.6	570.5	1,256.2
1986	1,680	1,687	673.9	691.7	1,390.7
1987	1,471	1,475	602.8	605.3	1,316.4

(a) Refers to all disputes in progress during the period. (b) Comprises employees involved in disputes which commenced during the month and additional employees involved in disputes which continued from the previous month.

TABLE 2. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	Manufacturing							
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (a)	All industries
	Coal	Other						
1987 June	7.3	4.7	12.4	15.1	15.0	3.0	7.7	65.2
July	35.3	10.3	23.9	14.8	43.0	2.2	8.4	137.8
August	17.7	6.0	14.2	21.7	11.7	3.6	23.7	98.8
September	97.9	2.8	23.1	6.8	38.6	4.5	108.9	282.6
October	15.8	4.4	12.7	13.6	19.5	26.5	25.1	117.6
November	21.7	1.3	9.9	29.2	5.7	4.2	54.7	126.7
December	11.5	0.7	6.5	25.9	0.7	26.5	14.6	86.5
1988 January	10.1	0.9	1.3	1.3	7.5	1.5	6.6	29.2
February	47.4	11.4	8.4	7.6	7.2	3.4	15.1	100.5
March	34.0	10.3	3.8	8.8	14.9	4.4	8.6	84.8
April	3.5	3.2	3.6	0.7	6.4	2.9	15.1	35.4
May	27.9	3.9	19.2	5.0	29.4	3.0	12.6	101.0
June	123.5	5.6	168.1	15.6	64.6	17.4	93.4	488.3
July	75.5	3.8	66.8	42.3	30.5	20.0	65.3	304.2
August	17.5	8.3	9.3	13.5	9.4	1.8	107.2	166.9
Twelve months ended—								
August 1986	370.9	192.4	159.5	151.0	143.9	147.1	223.1	1,387.8
1987	202.5	80.4	202.1	225.7	166.9	35.5	267.7	1,180.9
1988	486.2	56.8	332.9	170.3	234.4	116.0	527.3	1,923.8
December 1985	233.8	106.4	107.3	189.4	175.3	180.4	263.7	1,256.2
1986	362.0	179.4	187.4	205.3	117.7	57.6	281.4	1,390.7
1987	291.1	55.7	199.6	195.5	202.4	92.5	279.6	1,316.4

(a) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

TABLE 3. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST ('000)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(a)
1987 June	19.1	16.8	12.4	5.1	7.8	1.3	65.2
July	81.6	25.6	7.7	9.9	3.3	7.8	137.8
August	22.1	50.3	4.1	5.2	14.7	2.1	98.8
September	185.9	40.1	9.6	5.3	37.6	2.1	282.6
October	61.2	37.9	3.4	4.1	6.8	1.3	117.6
November	88.6	9.7	16.2	2.5	7.3	1.3	126.7
December	47.6	26.3	2.8	2.5	1.1	5.4	86.5
1988 January	9.6	1.6	13.2	0.6	3.4	0.3	29.2
February	62.7	9.5	7.8	5.3	12.4	0.9	100.5
March	26.5	13.2	21.4	0.7	17.2	3.4	84.8
April	10.7	11.9	3.3	1.3	5.3	1.5	35.4
May	39.3	5.8	45.8	2.6	5.1	0.9	101.0
June	269.0	64.7	94.2	23.4	24.8	3.5	488.3
July	55.1	181.8	49.8	4.7	9.7	2.9	304.2
August	121.1	21.2	6.9	4.1	7.3	3.5	166.9
Twelve months ended—							
August 1986	595.5	355.5	215.5	41.4	126.9	26.0	1,387.8
1987	494.0	400.3	88.5	43.0	107.7	25.0	1,180.9
1988	977.3	423.5	274.3	57.1	138.0	27.1	1,923.8
December 1985	398.7	355.9	336.2	22.5	92.9	20.7	1,256.2
1986	598.8	381.8	173.4	46.2	143.1	29.2	1,390.7
1987	741.5	289.3	73.7	44.6	115.3	28.0	1,316.4

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

TABLE 4. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	Manufacturing							
	Mining		Metal products, machinery and equipment	Other	Construction	Transport and storage; Communication	Other industries (b)	All industries
	Coal	Other						
1984	3,913	3,745	343	416	503	372	91	248
1985	6,898	1,931	255	312	666	432	71	228
1986	10,773	3,328	445	328	458	135	72	242
Twelve months ended—								
1986—								
August	11,038	3,454	374	244	561	345	58	244
1987—								
August	6,046	1,571	485	355	648	83	67	203
September	8,793	1,401	512	290	770	91	90	233
October	8,757	1,427	497	281	829	149	91	238
November	8,884	1,283	474	287	808	158	84	231
December	8,902	1,069	479	305	773	217	69	223
1988—								
January	9,243	818	474	302	771	213	69	222
February	9,829	982	481	286	764	216	70	225
March	10,774	1,091	440	280	716	214	71	225
April	10,486	1,076	384	265	705	208	72	218
May	10,500	1,106	336	233	735	201	73	212
June	14,292	1,118	715	234	910	235	93	282
July	15,690	997	819	276	856	278	107	309
August	15,781	1,037	807	264	841	274	126	319

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Comprises Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; Electricity, gas and water; Wholesale and retail trade; Finance, property and business services; Public administration and defence; Community services; Recreation, personal and other services.

CHART 1. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

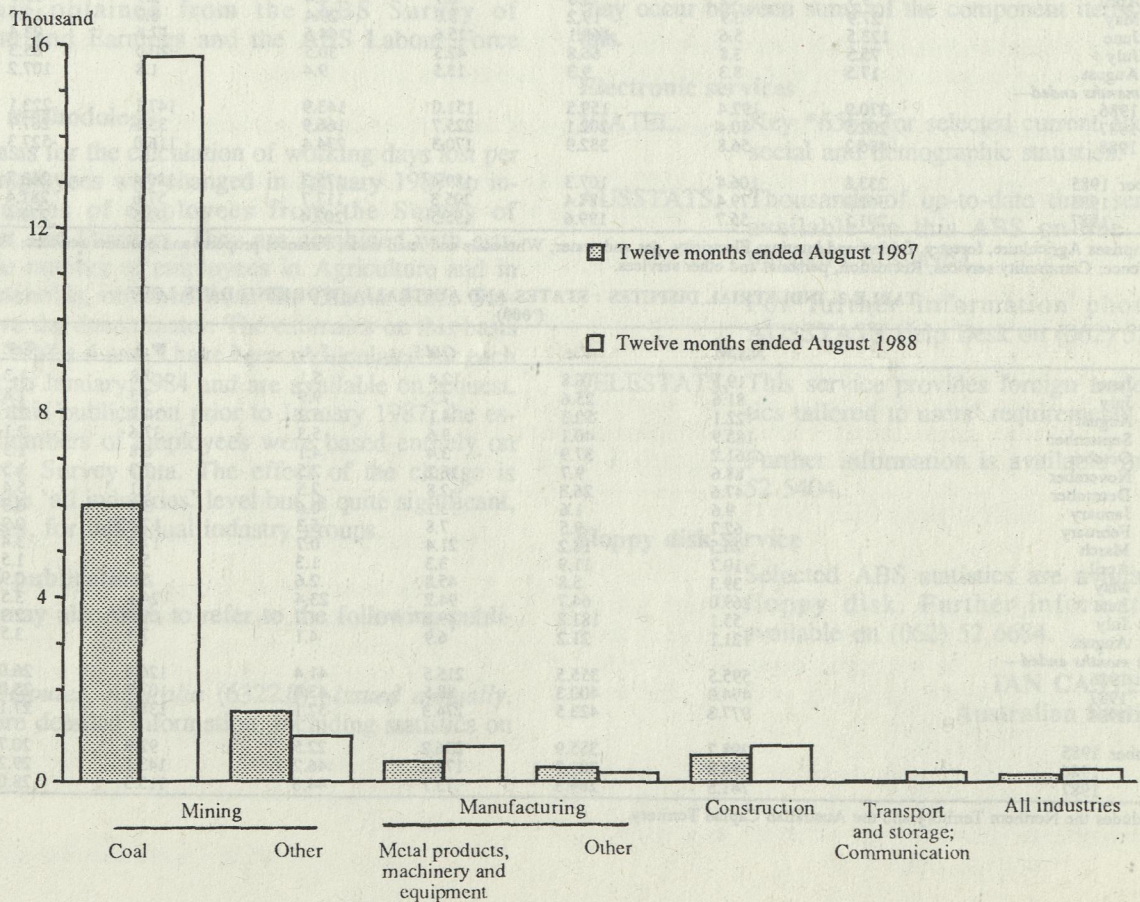


TABLE 5. INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES : STATES AND AUSTRALIA, WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES(a)

Period	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust.(b)
1984	357	132	302	55	256	350	248
1985	209	236	411	47	187	138	228
1986	304	240	207	95	272	190	242
Twelve months ended—							
1986—							
August	305	226	259	86	245	171	244
1987—							
August	229	229	106	88	199	159	203
September	299	235	94	92	243	162	233
October	309	240	91	96	242	160	238
November	328	198	90	93	235	148	231
December	340	164	87	91	212	177	223
1988—							
January	336	162	101	90	192	177	222
February	343	156	107	100	208	180	225
March	335	151	129	97	218	194	225
April	314	151	129	96	221	191	218
May	293	139	173	90	225	181	212
June	403	165	268	126	257	195	282
July	389	252	317	116	269	164	309
August	431	235	319	113	255	174	319

(a) See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

CHART 2. WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES

